

Remarks

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-11, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-24, 26, and 29. While the Applicants agree that such claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed on November 24, 2004, the Applicants submit that the invention as recited by the claims and as described in the present application is patentable over the art of record for reasons in addition to those listed by the Examiner. For example, the Applicants note that in the Office Action mailed on November 24, 2004, the Examiner paraphrases elements of the claims. The Examiner's paraphrasing of the elements of the claims may or may not have the same meaning as the language of the claims. The Applicants note that the language of the claims defines the invention and the language in the Examiner's statement should not be construed as limiting the claims in any manner. Moreover, the claims contain recitations in addition to those stated by the Examiner that provide additional bases for patentability over the art of record. Accordingly, the Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of different scope than those in the present application. For example, such claims may not necessarily need to include the elements identified by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed on November 24, 2004.

Claims 18, 21, 25, 27, and 28 Are Allowable Over the Cited Art

Claims 18, 21, 25, and 28 were rejected under 35 § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,183,413 B1 to Migachyov (the Migachyov reference). Claim 27 was rejected under 35 § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Migachyov reference.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 19. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 18 is allowable over the cited art. The Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 20, 24, and 27 are allowable over the cited art at least because of their dependency from independent claim 18.

Claim 22 has been amended to place the claim in independent form and to include the subject matter of the claims from which it originally depended from. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 22 is allowable over the cited art. The Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 23, 25, and 28 are allowable over the cited art at least because of their dependency from independent claim 22. Claim 21 has been canceled.

Claim 26 has been amended to place the claim in independent form and to include the subject matter of the claims from which it originally depended from. Accordingly the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 26 is allowable over the cited art.

Conclusion

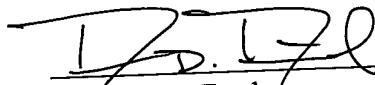
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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